

College, varsity face probe over courses

PENANG: A private college and another university will be investigated for allegedly conducting courses without approval from the Education Ministry.

Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad said yesterday that tertiary institutions should know that all courses must receive the ministry's approval before introducing them.

Musa was responding to a recent newspaper report that Inti International College in Bukit Jambul had recently suspended three of its twinning courses introduced two years ago after failing to obtain the ministry's approval.

The report on May 7 quoted the college's principal and registrar Dr Hamzah Darus as saying that their twinning partner, Multimedia University (MMU) in Cyberjaya, had yet to obtain approval to fran-

chise the course.

Dr Hamzah had said in the report that the courses were initially offered two years ago on the assumption that approval from the ministry for MMU to franchise its courses was forthcoming.

Musa said action would be taken against the two institutions under the Private Education Act if investigations concluded they had violated regulations.

"Those keen in pursuing studies in private colleges should check if the offered courses were recognised by the ministry before registering," he told reporters after attending a dialogue session with teachers from Bayan Lepas yesterday.

"They should not be easily taken in by advertisement gimmicks. They have the right to ask for proof of the approv-



Musa ... 'check if courses are recognised'

al in order to protect themselves from being short-changed," he added.

The newspaper report said the courses offered were the Bachelor of Arts in Information Technology, Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration and pre-university Information Technology.